'Disappointment' as Biden cancels Keystone XL permit

The Toronto Star

January 21, 2021 Thursday

Copyright 2021 Toronto Star Newspapers Limited

Section: BUSINESS; Pg. B2

Length: 449 words

Byline: Dan Healing The Canadian Press With files from The Associated Press

Dateline: CALGARY

Body

Newly inaugurated U.S. President Joe Biden carried out his campaign promise to tear up the presidential permit keeping the Keystone XL expansion alive on Wednesday, hours after the pipeline owner said it would halt work on the project.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed disappointment at the news.

"While we welcome the president's commitment to fight climate change, we are disappointed but acknowledge the president's decision to fulfil his election campaign promise on Keystone XL," he said in a brief statement that outlined previous efforts to make a case for the project to the incoming administration.

Calgary-based TC Energy Corp. said Biden's action overturns extensive regulatory reviews that found the pipeline would transport needed energy in an environmentally responsible way and bolster North American energy security.

It also warned the move will lead to the layoffs of thousands of union workers and comes despite the company's commitments to use renewable energy to power the pipeline and forge equity partnerships with Indigenous communities.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said over 2,000 people have lost their jobs.

"It is an insult directed at the United States most important ally and trading partner on day one of a new administration," Kenney said.

Kenney called it a gut punch for the Canadian and Alberta economies.

"The leader of our closet ally retroactively vetoed approval for a pipeline that exists and which is co-owned by Canadian government, directly attacking by far the largest part of the Canada U.S. trade relationship, which is our energy industry and exports," Kenney said.

Meanwhile, environmental groups applauded Biden's move.

"Killing the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all is a clear indication that climate action is a priority for the White House," said Dale Marshall, national climate program manager for Canada's Environmental Defence.

"We should take heed when the biggest customer for Canada's oil kills a pipeline that is already under construction. The Keystone XL pipeline never made sense for either the U.S. or Canada."

In contrast, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said it's "incredibly troubling" that TC Energy has suspended work on Keystone XL.

"Now is the time for our nations to strengthen our trading relationship, not erect further barriers to collaborative and sustainable development," he said in a statement.

Federal Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole called the cancellation of the permit "devastating."

"We need to get as many people back to work, in every part of Canada, in every sector, as quickly as possible. The loss of this important project only makes that harder," he said.

The Canadian Press

With files from The Associated Press

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Document-Type: COLUMN

Publication-Type: NEWSPAPER

Subject: CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); NEGATIVE BUSINESS NEWS (79%); RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY (79%); ELECTIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); TRADE DEVELOPMENT (78%); VETO (78%); CLIMATE ACTION (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (76%); SUSTAINABILITY (76%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (76%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (74%); ENERGY & UTILITY REGULATION & POLICY (74%); DISMISSALS (73%); LAYOFFS (73%); LAYOFFS & DISMISSALS (73%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (73%); NEGATIVE EMPLOYMENT NEWS (73%); POLITICAL PARTIES (73%); EXPORT TRADE (71%); APPROVALS (69%); REGULATORY ACTIONS (69%); LABOR UNIONS (53%)

Industry: ENERGY & UTILITIES (90%); ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY (79%); RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY (79%); NEW CONSTRUCTION (78%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (77%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (76%); PRESS AGENCY RELEASES (75%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (74%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (74%); ENERGY & UTILITY REGULATION & POLICY (74%); ENERGY & UTILITY TRADE (74%)

Person: JOE BIDEN (79%); JUSTIN TRUDEAU (79%)

Geographic: CALGARY, AB, CANADA (90%); ALBERTA, CANADA (91%); SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA (79%); CANADA (97%); UNITED STATES (94%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

Load-Date: January 21, 2021

End of Document